

NOTES ON SOME GENERA OF HETEROPTERA

by E. Bergroth

Fam. PENTATOMIDÆ

1. **Scylax** DIST. — This genus contains but one species : *porrectus* DIST. (*macrinus* DIST.). In trying to refute this well founded synonymy DISTANT (Entomologist 1911, p: 23) resorts to an amusing trick, to put it very mildly. He makes the unnecessary statement that his types of these species were both females (which was clear from the figures), and now describes the male genital segment of *porrectus*, and then says : « this effectually (!?) disposes of the contention of BREDDIN (Wien. Ent. Zeit. XXVI, p. 93 [1907, repeated by KIRKALDY (Cat. Hem. I, p. 371, 1909), that *S. porrectus*, DIST., and *S. macrinus*, DIST., were the sexes of one species. » It is, I think, the first time that DISTANT describes the genital segment of an insect, and we have to be thankful for it, but with the description and the quoted remark he entirely misses his aim. As the places where BREDDIN and KIRKALDY speak of this genus are correctly cited, DISTANT has evidently read them, and thus knows quite well that *neither* BREDDIN *nor* KIRKALDY have ever said that *porrectus* and *macrinus* are the sexes of one species. BREDDIN simply says that he had received a long series of specimens, showing all transitions between *porrectus* and *macrinus*, and that *macrinus* is only a subbrachypterous form of *porrectus* — a conclusion with which I entirely agree — and KIRKALDY only says, without quoting BREDDIN, that he had seen specimens and that the two species « are the same ». Mr. DISTANT too often forgets his own maxim : « any approach to misrepresentation should be avoided » (Cfr. Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 1911, p. 230). If he wants to show that *porrectus* and *macrinus* are distinct, he has to describe either the male or the female genital segment of both « species », and show where the difference is. Nobody doubts that the male genital segment of a species is different from the female one.

2. **Sepontia** STÅL. — It seems to me that DISTANT on good reasons has separated *Eusarcocoris Lereddi* LE GUILL. and two other species as a distinct genus, *Neostollia*, but also the allied genus *Sepontia* must in my opinion be divided into two genera, *Sepontia* STÅL, and *Caenina* WALK. (which corresponds to STÅL's division *aa* of *Sepontia*). In *Sepontia* the scutellum is considerably

narrower, leaving the lateral parts of the abdomen and a great part of the corium uncovered, and slightly narrowing backward at the very base with short frena, then parallel through a short distance before being moderately ampliatis. In *Caenina* the scutellum is strongly ampliatis from the very base, without frena, and covering a greater part of the corium and the posterior part of the abdomen. *Sepontia* is known only from Africa (in the eastern part of which its only species is common); to *Caenina* belong the Asiatic and Australian species hitherto placed in *Sepontia*, excepting *S. australis* SCHOUT. which probably is a *Neostollia*. As the name *Caenina* is preoccupied (FELDER, Lepidoptera, 1861), I propose for WALKER's genus the name **Spermatodes**.

Spermatodes granum n. sp. — Nitidus, niger, ænescens, modice dense fortiuscule, in capite subtilius punctatus, area exteriore pro-et mesopleurarum segmento que genitali maris subtumido levibus; supra transversaliter et præsertim longitudinaliter valde convexus, e latere visus ante medium rotundato-declivis, pone partem plus quam tertiam basalem scutelli planato-declivis, subtus transversaliter sat fortiter, longitudinaliter parum convexus, macula transversa subapicali pronoti, margine laterali prothoracis ab apice ultra medium, maculis tribus subbasalibus scutelli (media transversa a margine basali paullum distante, lateralibus longitudinaliter ovalibus nonnihil intra angulos basales positæ et marginem basalem subtangentibus), maculis tribus apicalibus diffusis et subconfluentibus scutelli, margine costali corii cum epipleura anguloque postico metapleurarum flavis, antennis, rostro pedibusque flavo-testaceis, coxis et trochanteribus piceis. Caput ante oculos leviter sinuatum, antennis medium abdominis superantibus, articulis secundo et tertio subæquilongis, quarto duobus præcedentibus unitis æque longo, quinto quarto distincte longiore, elongatofusiformi. Pronotum capite triplo latius, marginibus lateralibus anticis rectis, angulis lateralibus parum prominulis, anguste rotundatis. Scutellum pone medium abdomini æque latum. Exocorium mox extra venam radialem serie unica punctorum præditum. Segmentum sextum ventrale maris medio duobus præcedentibus unitis subæque longum. — Long. ♂ 1.9 mill., lat. 1.8 mill.

Ins. Philippinæ (Los Baños, C. F. BAKER).

This very distinct species is the smallest Pentatomoid bug hitherto known from the Old World. (From Venezuela I know a still smaller undescribed Pentatomid).

3. **Acrosternum** FIEB. — STÅL (Enum. Hem. V, p. 63) maintained *Acrosternum* as a genus distinct from *Nezara*, but distinguished it from this genus almost only by the absence of the black

streak under the lateral margin of the head. This character is, of course, of no generic value, and in consequence of this limitation of the genus he referred only three Asiatic species to it, besides the type. It has since been united with *Nezara*. Yet *Acrosternum* is in my opinion a perfectly valid genus, readily separable from *Nezara* by the structure of the metasternal orificia which are always of great importance in the systematic arrangement of the Pentatomidæ.

Nezara Am. S. : Orificia brevia, latiuscula, medium metapleuræ non aut vix attingentia, apice abrupta et levissime elevata, in rugam seu plicam non continuata, rarissime perbrevia, subauriculata.

Acrosternum FIEB. : Orificia in rugam seu plicam longam angustam, apice acutam, angulum postero-lateralem mesopleure fere attingentem, oblique extrorsum et antrorsum continuata.

The conclusive proof that they are distinct genera has been given by SHARP (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1890, p. 406-408, pl. XIII, fig. 11, 12, 16, 17) who has studied in detail the inner male genital segment and its appendages of *Nezara viridula* L., an unnamed *Acrosternum* from Madagascar allied to *acutum* DALL. (it is the recently described *A. spicatum* DIST.) and the American *Acrosternum marginatum* P. B. While the two geographically widely separated species of *Acrosternum* are very similar in the structure of the male genital segment, the *Nezara* is in this respect so totally different that SHARP says he doubts whether they can be correctly placed in the same genus.

To *Nezara* belong the species placed by STÅL (Enum. Hem. V, p. 91) in his division *a* of this genus. No American species, except the cosmopolitan *viridula*, belong to *Nezara*.

To *Acrosternum* belong the species of STÅL's division *aa* (*loco cit.*) and all American species wrongly placed by KIRKALDY (Cat., p. 116-117) in the « typical subgenus » of *Nezara* (except *viridula*).

Pellæa STÅL, which STÅL regarded as a subgenus, is generically distinct by the structure of the pronotal apical margin, the base of the venter, and the quite different coloration.

Banasa STÅL (including *Atomosira* UHL.) is distinct from *Acrosternum* by different puncture and habitus; *Rio* KIRK. can be maintained as a subgenus of *Banasa*.

I have not seen *Menida Gerstæckeri* BERGR. since I described it some twenty years ago, and the type is in the Paris museum, but although the apical margin of the pronotum is narrowly levigated and slightly elevated, there can be no doubt that it is an *Acrosternum* allied to *A. rinapsus* DALL.

Acrosternum Horvathi BERGR. stands in some collections under the name *punctatorugosum* STÅL. These species are closely allied, but *Horvathi* is at once distinguished by the absence of smooth callous spots on the pronotum, the black (not red) lateral margin of the upper side of the head, pronotum, and basal part of corium, and by the bicolorous legs. *Horvathi* seems to be much more common than *punctatorugosum* which I have seen only in VAN DUZEE's collection.

4. **Farnya** SCHOUT. — In 1881 DISTANT published a description and figure of an African species under the name *Halyomorpha versicolor*. The figure shows no resemblance to a *Halyomorpha*, and I have always suspected that it belonged somewhere else, but the species has remained unknown to me. Under the name *Farnya* SCHOUTEDEN described in 1910 a new subgenus (« oder vielleicht Gattung ») of *Halyomorpha*, and in this subgenus he placed *versicolor* DIST. and the new east-african species *kilimana* and *rikatlensis*, to which he later added *Pentatoma maculata* BALL. which STÅL had placed in *Antestia*. Having recently examined a pair (♂♀) of *rikatlensis* SCHOUT. in the Helsingfors museum, I have found that *Farnya* is a good genus. It has no affinity at all to *Halyomorpha* but is very closely related to *Plautia* STÅL, and following STÅL's systematic exposition in Enum. Hem. V, it is impossible to place it elsewhere. The venter is, quite as in *Plautia*, broadly but distinctly tuberculate at the base (a character not mentioned by DISTANT and SCHOUTEDEN), and its other characters are also those of *Plautia*, from which it is separated only by the peculiar tessellated sculpture of the apical half of the pronotum, and by a somewhat different scheme of coloration. I have little to add to SCHOUTEDEN's good description of *Farnya rikatlensis*. The pale fifth antennal joint, which was lacking in SCHOUTEDEN's specimens, has a rather broad and diffuse subapical black annulation, the dorsum of the abdomen is red, very thickly and finely punctulate, the dark basal and apical fasciæ to the connexival segments and the dark « linea marginalis suturalis » of the ventral border are sometimes very indistinct or almost wanting, the hyaline membrane has (as in *versicolor*) in the middle of its basal half a small fuscons spot, quite distinct when the hemelytra are outspread. The scutellum in the male reaches the middle of the penultimate dorsal segment, in the female it does not quite reach the apex of the preceding segment; this disparity is not due to a difference in the length of the scutellum, but to the shorter male abdomen. The difference in size of the sexes is sometimes (as in *versicolor*) considerable, ♂ 11 mill., ♀ 14.5 mill. (without membrane). The specimens of *F. rikatlensis* in the

Helsingfors museum are from Arabia (Welledje Gebel Melham) and are taken by Dr. SCHWEINFURTH. The occurrence of this species in Arabia is of interest but not surprising, as southern Arabia has a purely ethiopian fauna with intermingling of very few palearctic and no Indian forms.

Fam. MYODOCHIDÆ

5. **Porta** DIST. — In 1903 DISTANT described from the Malay States a new genus and species under the name *Porta gracilis*, referring it to the family Coreidæ, subfam. Alydinæ. A glance at DISTANT's figures (Fasc. Malay., Zool., I, pl. XV, fig. 6 and 6a) is sufficient to show that this insect has nothing to do with the Coreidæ, and the examination of a cotype proved it to belong to the family Myodochidæ (Lygaeidæ), subfam. Myodochinæ, div. Myodocharia, where its place is not far from the typical genus *Myodocha* LATR. The referring of this genus to the Coreidæ-Alydinæ is simply absurd, and would be impossible to account for in the writings of any other hemipterist, but it is quite in keeping with the same author's placing of *Corizus* in the Myodochidæ. The original description contains so little by which the genus could be recognized (not even the spinous fore femora being mentioned) that it is necessary to redescribe it.

Corpus angustum, elongatum. Caput exsertum, pronoto subæque longum et basi hujus paullo angustius, parte postoculari retrorsum fortius angustata et in collum brevem transeunte, vertice medio longitudinaliter canaliculato, oculis e latere visis oblique ovalibus, ocellis inter se et ab oculis subæque longe distantibus, tuberculis antenniferis e supero visis extus parallelis, spatio inter apicem eorum et oculos oculo ipso paullo brevior, bucculis brevissimis, gula subrecta, rostro coxas medias subattingente, articulis longitudinaliter subæqualibus, primo marginem posticum oculorum haud attingente, antennis gracilibus, corpore longioribus, articulo primo capiti subæque longo, apicem capitis longissime superante, apice oblongo-clavato, secundo primo plus quam dimidio longiore, tertio secundo nonnihil brevior, quarto tertio paullo longiore. Pronotum latitudine longius, declivè, paullo ante medium angulariter constrictum et transversim profunde impressum, apice et basi late leviter sinuatum, collari per prosternum continuato et ibidem multo longiore, lobo postico antico nonnihil latiore, angulis lateralibus haud eminulis sed spina suberecta armatis. Scutellum latitudine basali longius. Hemelytra apicem abdominis haud superantia, ante medium nonnihil constricta, clavo biseriatim punctato, parte media inter has series subconfuse punctata, commissura scutello

æque longa, margine apicali corii sutura clavi parum brevior. Anguli postici metasterni recti, haud producti. Abdomen oblongo-ovale, hemelytris haud latius, basin versus angustatum et attenuatum, ventre (saltem in mare) per segmenta tria prima medio carinato. Pedes longi, graciles, femoribus apicem versus sensim levissime incrassatis, anticis ceteris haud crassioribus, subtus in dimidio apicali spinis tribus uniseriatim ordinatis armatis. (Pedes postici in specimine descripto desunt.)

Allied to *Bedunia* STÅL, but the head is more strongly narrowed toward the base, the pronotum is longer with spined lateral angles, the clavus is differently punctured, and the fore femora are much less incrassate with only three spines placed in a single row. It is also allied to *Vertomannus* DIST. (as redescribed by BREDDIN), from which it differs by the much shorter neck of the head, by longer pronotum with distinctly spined lateral angles, and by much shorter hemelytra. (That the fore femora in *Vertomannus* are spined beneath is not mentioned by DISTANT, but this and most other characters have been supplemented by BREDDIN).
